

82D CONGRESS  
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} HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES }

} REPORT  
No. 2464

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO SELL CERTAIN LAND AND DWELLING HOUSES ON THE PROJECT KNOWN AS SHADEHILL UNIT, MISSOURI RIVER BASIN PROJECT, LEMMON, S. DAK., WITHOUT REGARD TO PROVISIONS OF LAW REQUIRING COMPETITIVE BIDDING OR PUBLIC ADVERTISING

JULY 3, 1952.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. MURDOCK, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 7506]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7506) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to sell certain land and dwelling houses on the project known as Shadehill unit, Missouri River Basin project, Lemmon, S. Dak., without regard to provisions of law requiring competitive bidding or public advertising, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

### EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

H. R. 7506 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to sell to veterans and occupants, without regard to provisions of law requiring competitive bidding or public advertising, 17 prefabricated houses in Lemmon, S. Dak., built by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1948, prior to the commencement of construction of the Shadehill Dam, a unit of the Missouri River Basin project. The houses now are surplus to Federal needs.

The Department of the Interior recommends the enactment of this bill. Its passage is requested by the city of Lemmon, where an acute housing shortage exists, and by the local American Legion post.

Seventeen houses would be offered for sale under this bill. Three others are still being utilized by the Bureau of Reclamation and would not be affected by the bill's provisions until such time as they are no longer needed by the Federal Government.

## 2 AUTHORIZE SALE OF CERTAIN LAND AND HOUSES IN SOUTH DAKOTA

The houses would be sold at a fair market price in the following preference order:

(1) A veteran who occupies a dwelling structure to be sold and who intends to continue to occupy the structure.

(2) A nonveteran who occupies a dwelling structure to be sold and who intends to continue to occupy the structure.

(3) A veteran who intends to occupy a dwelling structure to be sold.

In addition to the 17 dwellings, H. R. 7506 would affect some unimproved lots held by the Bureau of Reclamation. No preference would be given veterans on the sale of the unimproved lands inasmuch as there is no shortage of such lots in the city of Lemmon.

The report of the Department of the Interior is set forth below in full and further explains the bill.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington 25, D. C., June 24, 1952.

Hon. JOHN R. MURDOCK,  
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington 25, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. MURDOCK: This letter is in response to your request for an expression of our views on H. R. 7506, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to sell certain land and dwelling houses on the project known as Shadehill unit, Missouri River Basin project, Lemmon, S. Dak., to veterans and occupants without regard to provisions of law requiring competitive bidding or public advertising.

The lands and dwellings covered by the bill were originally used by the Bureau of Reclamation of this Department in connection with the construction of the Shadehill Unit of the Missouri River Basin project.

The lots in Lemmon's first addition, block 6; Lemmon's second addition, block 3; and Engebretson's addition, block 10 have dwellings erected thereon that are excess to the needs of the Bureau of Reclamation. Also excess to the Bureau's needs are lots 11 and 12 of block 3 in Lemmon's fourth addition. Those lots are unimproved except for sewer and water lines. The lots and dwellings referred to in this paragraph would be offered for sale as soon as possible after H. R. 7506 is enacted.

The lots numbered 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 together with the dwellings thereon; the unimproved lots numbered 3, 4, 5, and 6 of block 11 in Engebretson's addition; and lots 7, 8, and 9 of block 3 in Lemmon's fourth addition together with the multiple-unit steel garage structure thereon need to be retained for the time being because of anticipated responsibilities of the Bureau of Reclamation. Lots 1 and 2 of block 11 in Engebretson's addition and the laboratory and residence thereon need to be retained by the Bureau for its farm operator.

Although the bill would authorize the sale at an appraised price of all the described lots and dwellings, some of which are not excess to the Bureau's needs at the time, I understand that the latter were included for the purpose of facilitating their sale in accordance with the terms of the bill whenever they are no longer needed by the Bureau of Reclamation. On this basis, we have no objection to the enactment of H. R. 7506.

Section 2 of the bill would grant a preferred right of purchase to certain persons who occupy or intend to occupy a dwelling structure to be sold. Although this section purports to give a preferred right of purchase in connection with all property sold under the terms of the bill, it is so drafted that the preference schedule does not cover the vacant lots.

We have been informed by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection to the presentation of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

VERNON D. NORTHROP,  
*Administrative Assistant Secretary of the Interior.*

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs unanimously recommends the enactment of H. R. 7506.